S754 A (Friends) W66

# Testimony for the Lord, and his Truth.

*Given forth by the Women Friends, at their Yearly Meeting at York; Being a Tender Salutation of Love, to their Friends and Sisters, in their several Monthly Meetings, in this County and else where Greeting.*

[Cannot find this I do Whiting]

This is omitted in Whiting but I had it down under the head, "Friends, Women's Yearly Meet^g, York."

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...; to wait upon
...order us: And
...s in our Exer-
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Gift of Chas. F. Jenkins

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DEar Friends and Sisters, we being mett together in the fear of the *LORD*; to wait upon him for his antient power to order us: And in his wisdom and Councel to guide us in our Exercise relating to Church Affairs; It hath pleased him to break in amongst us in a glorious manner, to our great satisfaction, and filled our Meeting with his living presence, and Crowned our Assembly with his Heavenly power; and opened the Fountain of Life unto us, and the Sreams of his love Freely to flow amongst us, and run from Vessel to Vessel, to glading of our hearts, which causeth living praises, and hearty thanksgiving to be rendred unto him, who alove is worthy. And Friends, we hereby signifie to you, that there hath been many living testimonies



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delivered amongſt us from the Divine openings of the Spirit of Life, in many Bretheren and Siſters, whereby we are fully ſatiſfied that the Lord is well pleaſed with this our ſervice, and doth accept our Sacrifices and Free-will Offerings, and returns an Anſwer of peace unto our Boſoms, which is greatly our Reward: Here hath alſo been brought ſeveral Teſtimonies in writing from divers of our Monthly meetings, to our great ſatisfaction touching the care of Friends, for the honour of God, and proſperity of Truth in one another. And dear Friends, in that unchangeable love and pretious Truth of our God, we dearly ſalute you; wherein our Relation and accquaintance with him and one with another in Spirit is daily renewed, and our care and concern for his honour, and one anothers good is ſtill continued: And therein we ſee there is as great need as ever to watch over one another for good; Though it hath pleaſed God in his infinite mercy and love to give us a day of Eaſe and Liberty as to the outward, and hath broken the Bonds of many Captives, and hath ſetten the opreſſed free, and opened the Priſon doors in a good meaſure, Living praiſes be given to him for ever: And now Friends; it is our deſire that we all may make a right uſe of it; and anſwer the end of the Lord in it, and neither take nor give liberty, to that part in any which may give the Lord occaſion

occasion to suffer our Bonds to be renewed, but in his fear and holy awe walk humbly before him, in a holy and self-denying life; under the Cross of Christ Jesus, *which daily Crucifies us to the world and the world to us*; and teacheth us to deny ungodliness and wordly lusts, and to live righteously and soberly in this present world, that by our holy lives and Righteous Conversations; others seeing our good works may *glorifie our Heavenly Father*, and that by our truth like and Christian behavour, and down right dealing in all our affairs amongst the Children of men, we may walk as becomes the truth. And deare Friends, Joyn not with any sort of people further then will stand with truths honour, and reach Gods witness in every Conscience, but as much as in you lyeth live peaceably with all men, and do good unto all, *especially unto the household of Faith*, and so daily fulfill the royal Law of love in shewing to all men that you are Christs Disciples by loveing him and one another. And Friends, we cannot but warn you of the Seperating & Quariling spirit which leads unto strife contention & jangling and would thereby lay waste your concern for Gods honour, and one anothers good; this is that old Adversary and enemy of mankind, who in all Ages *went about like a roaring Lyon, seeking whom he might devoure*, and as a Ravenous Woolf; sometimes gets

the Sheeps cloathing, and never wants ſpetious pretences to accompliſh his deſigne, and bring about his end, which is to Devide, Rend, Tear, deſtroy, and ſeperate from God and one from another; and would lay waſte *the heritage of God*, and make ſpoyl of his Plantation, and leave his tender Plants without care, in the Bryers and Thorns & every hurtful weed to wrap about them to hinder their grouth, and draw them out of their order, by reaſon of which, as in the dayes of Old; the way of truth might be evil ſpoken of; the Lord diſapoint him of his purpoſe, and fruſtrate him of his end, is our prayer, and keep us liveingly ſencable, that the end of the Lord in all his Fatherly corrections gentle chaſtiſements, and kind reproofs; hath been to preſerve us from the ſnares of the enemie: Therefore dear Friends be concerned for the preſervation of one another in every of your Reſpective *Monthly Meetings*, and be faithfull in performing your ſervice and duty to God and one to another (as he opens it in you and layes it upon you) in *Exhortation, Admonition and Reproof*, in tender love, for ſo it will be as the *Balm of Gilead* unto thoſe who are wounded by the wiles of the Enemie: For dear Friends it is the very end of our travel and labour of love, *that the hungry may be fed, the naked cloathed, the weak ſtrengthned and the feeble comforted, and the wounded healed*; So that

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that the very weakeſt and hindermoſt of the Flock may be gathered into the Fold of Reſt and ſafety, where no deſtroyer can come, where the Ranſomed and Redeemed by the Lord, have the ſongs of deliverance, and high praiſes in their mouthes, giving him the honour, Who alone is worthy for ever? And Friends, let us ever remember the tender dealings and mercies of the Lord to us, and that it was not for our deſerts, nor any worthineſs in us; but his own good will and for his Seed ſake, in which he heard our many cryes, and had regard to our Tears, and helped us through many Exerciſes and Tryals inwardly and outwardly, and hath been our *Rock and Refuge*, and our ſure hiding place, in many Storms and exerciſes; and *yet* preſerves in perfect peace all thoſe that truſt in him, who keeps his new creation *full of joy*, and the voice of Thanksgiving and melody is heard in our Land, and the Lord becomes unto us the place of *Broad Rivers*, and makes us before him as well watered Gardens, and affects our hearts with his Divine love to praiſe his name. And now to you young Women whom our Souls loves, and whom the Lord delighteth to do good unto, and hath viſited with the taſtes of his love, be you ordred by him in all things, that in your *modeſt and Chaſt behaviour*, your comly and deaſent dreſſes in your Apparel and in all other things, you may

be good examples to others, not only thoſe that are without, *but to ſome profeſſing of the Faith*; that in the Line of Life, and language of truth; we may ſpeak one to another and ſay, *Ariſe you daughters of Sion, ſhake your ſelves from the duſt of the earth*, put on the Beautiful garments even the *Robes of Righteouſneſs* the Saints Cloathing, the ornament of a meek and quiet ſpirit. And be not too careful for preferment or riches in this world, but be careful to know the Lord, to be *your Portion and the Lot of your Inheritance:* Then Teſtimonies will ariſe as in the dayes of old, our Lot is falen in a good ground we have large poſſeſſions. And Friends, be not concern'd in referance to Marriage out of God's fear, but firſt wait to know your maker to become your Husband and the Bridegroom of your Soules, then you will come to know that you are not your own, but that he muſt have the ordering & diſpoſeing of you; *in Soule, Body and Spirit, which are all his*, for he being *the only one unto you, and the chiefeſt of ten thouſand amongſt you*; he will be your beloved and your friend: Oh Friends! this ſtate is happy and bleſſed are they that attain it, and Live in it, the Lord is not unmindful of them, but in his own time if he ſee it good for them, can provide *meet helps for them*, then will your Marriage be honorable; being orderly accompliſhed with; the *Aſſent of Parents*

and the unity of Friends, and an honour to God, and comfort to your own Soules, then *Husbands and Children* all a blessing in the hand of the Lord, and you will arise in your day age and generation as *Mothers in Israel*, as those holy Antients whose liveing testimonies Reacheth to us, and blessed memorys liveth with us according to our measures, as *Lidia* open hearted to God and one to another, *as Dorcas* careful to doe one another good, as *Debora*, concerned in the common wealth of *Israel*, *and as Iael* zealous for the truth, who was *praised above women*, And you Friends, who are under the present concern and in your Dayes work, doe it not negligently, nor with careless minds, but be you diligent in every of *your Womens Meetings*, and order two faithfull Women in every Meeting to take the care upon them, & so far as may answer truth, do your endeavours that nothing be practised amongst you, but what tends to Gods honour and one anothers comfort, let nothing be Indulged or counived at in any whereby truth is dishonoured, and let that be cherished and encouraged in all wherewith truth is honoured, and these our testimonys cast not carelesly into a Corner, but some time peruse them and marke well *the wholesome advise therein*; that our travel may be answered, the Lord honoured; and you reap the benefit, and let a right Record be kept from Month

to

to Month, and from Year to year of the Lords dealing with us, and mercy to us; to future Ages, that from Age to Age, *and one Generation to another*, his own works may praiſe him: To whom all praiſes doth belong, and be aſcribed both now and for ever.

*From our Yearly* Meeting *at* York,
*the* 28*th. of the* 4*th. Month* 1688.

*Signed on the Behalf of the* MEETING.

BY

*Catharine Whitton.*
*Judith Boulby.*
*Elizabeth Sedman.*
*Frances Taylor.*
*Mary Waite.*
*Debora Winn.*
*Elizabeth Beckwith.*
*Mary Lindley.*

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